Mitchell, William Donald

1913-1920

[The Jno. Williams Co.,
Bronze Foundry]

CASTING TABLETS FROM METAL OF THE MAINE

One Thousand Will Be Distributed by Navy Department to Patriotic Societies That Apply.

EVENING TELEGRAM BUREAU,
No. 208 HIBBS BUILDING,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Friday.

One thousand tablets are now being cast in New York from metal recovered from the U. S. S. Maine, destroyed in Havana Harbor February 15, 1898. These memorial tablets will be distributed, upon application, to patriotic societies throughout the United States.

So far more than two hundred applications have been received in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy here. The chief condition in the distribution of the memorial tablets will be that the recipients pay the actual cost of production. These charges are estimated by the Navy Department at less than $5 each.

The first shipment of the memorial tablets will be made about April 1, when distribution will begin. The tablet was designed by Charles Keck, of New York, and is being cast by the John Williams Company, also of New York.

RESTAURANT VAUDEVILLE.

B'way at 61st St. Tel. 9410—Col. GEO. RI

Best Talent in Kitchen | Continuous from

NY Telegram
March 21, 1913

Charles Keck
40 W 10th St

March 25th, 1913.

Mr. W. D. Mitchell,
c/o The John Williams Company,
556 West 27th Street,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I noticed in a recent paper the statement that your Company is casting a number of memorial tablets from metal received from the U. S. S. Maine, which were designed by Mr. Charles Kleck, and that the Navy Department is giving these tablets to such Societies as may apply, and the respective Societies to bear the expense of the casting. Will you kindly inform me how large these tablets are, and give me some idea of the probable cost, also if the design is one that would be likely to be interesting for exhibition in this Society's museum, as I am thinking of making application to the Navy Department, providing the tablet appears to be something that we would want.

Very truly yours,

Director.

ALL ESTIMATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. Contracts and agreements are contingent upon strikes, accidents and delays or other causes unavoidable or beyond our control.

*Telephone 4610 Chelsea

JNO. WILLIAMS, INC.

BRONZE FOUNDRY AND WORKS
WROUGHT IRON WORKS

JOHN WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT
JOSEPH MITCHELL, VICE-PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER
WM. DONALD MITCHELL, TREASURER
A. H. BURGESS, SECRETARY

Foundry and Works:
537 to 555 West 26th Street
536 to 556 West 27th Street

ARTISANS IN ORNAMENTAL METAL WORK
TO SPECIAL DESIGN
Architectural - Decorative - Sculptural

Colossal Bronze Statuary
and Monumental Castings

Office: 556 West 27th Street

NEW YORK, March 27, 1913.

SUBJECT

Mr. Bauman L. Belden,
Director,
The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street, West of Broadway,
New York.

Dear Mr. Belden:-

In regard to your letter of March 25th in reference to the "Maine" memorial tablets, we reply as fully as our authority in the matter permits. The size of the tablet is 13" high by 18" wide. The cost is fixed by the Navy Department to whom all applications must be made. We suggest that you write to Commander R.H. Leigh, U.S. Navy Department, Washington, D.C., who has charge of this matter in Washington.

We send you a photograph herewith. This photograph must be returned to us for as yet we have not authority from the Navy Department to distribute or publish them.

Trusting this information will be of service to you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm Donald Mitchell

WDM/AVN.

P.S. I send some illustrations of our work shown in pamphlets, "American Art in Bronze and Iron". The next issue will be devoted entirely to Sculpture by Daniel Chester French, which was cast in bronze by this Company.

W.D.M.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACTS AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION OF THE RELICS OF THE MAINE.

Act of December 22, 1911:

"The Secretaries of War and Navy are further authorized to donate any parts of the wreck of the Maine, or of its equipment, or of any property found therein, not needed by the United States, to any municipality of the United States, or to any military or naval association or society in the United States, or to the former officers and crew of the Maine, or their heirs or representatives: *Provided*, That such parts can be recovered and removed from the wreck without interference with the general work of removal now in progress under the War Department: *Provided, further*, That all labor and costs of such removal shall be defrayed by the municipality or other body desiring the relic, and that reasonable assurance shall be furnished that the parts so donated will be properly preserved and cared for as memorials and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without prior authority of the original donors."

Act of August 22, 1912:

"The Secretaries of War and Navy are authorized to cause to be made from any parts of the wreck of the Maine or its equipment that are suitable for the purpose, tablets for donation as relics in conformity with the provisions of the Act of December twenty-second, nineteen hundred and eleven, making appropriations to supply urgent deficiencies: *Provided*, That the cost of such tablets may be charged against any unexpended balances of appropriations heretofore made for the removal of the wreck of the Maine and that the municipalities and other bodies receiving such tablets shall defray the cost thereof, which cost shall be reimbursed to the proper appropriation."

that the tablet donated as herein requested shall be properly preserved and cared for as a memorial, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the prior authority of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy.

It is requested that the memorial tablet donated under this application be consigned to.....

.....

and sent by the ..... Company, charges collect.

Attached hereto are the following-described papers showing the authority of the undersigned to make this application, and the promises and guarantees herein made on behalf of.....

.....

viz: .....

.....

Witness:

IN REPLY ADDRESS
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
AND REFER TO NO.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON,

Sir:

There is enclosed herewith an application blank for a MAINE memorial tablet.

Your attention is invited to the Acts of Congress governing the donation of these tablets quoted on the back of the application blank, which clearly indicate to whom the tablets may be given, viz: Municipalities, military and naval associations or societies, and the former officers and crew of the MAINE, or their heirs or representatives.

The total estimated cost of these tablets is about seven dollars.

The tablets are made from metal (brass, bronze, and copper) recovered from the MAINE. They are thirteen by eighteen inches in size and weigh about fifteen pounds each.

They will be distributed from the Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., and will be sent to those to whom donated, as directed, securely packed, charges collect.

In submitting the application send no money to cover the cost of making the tablet; after your application has been approved, due notice will be sent you relative to this matter.

It is important, however, that full shipping directions appear on the face of the application.

Respectfully,

Secretary of the Navy.

Sir:-

In reply to your letter of 28th inst. I enclose letter relative to law governing donation of tablets.

I regret to say that you are not eligible for one of them.

Respectfully

R. Wilson

March 31st, 1918.

Mr. William Donald Mitchell,
c/o John Williams, Inc.,
556 West 27th Street,
New York.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:-

Many thanks for your letter of March 27th and the photograph, which I return herewith as requested.

I will take up the matter with Commander Leigh as you suggest, and decide later as to whether I want to get the tablet or not.

Very truly yours,

Director.

June 22nd, 1920.

W. D. Mitchell, Esq.,
c/o John Williams,
556 West 27th Street,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

At the suggestion of Mr. Felix Weil, I beg to extend you a very cordial invitation to become an associate member of The American Numismatic Society. I know that your firm has been a friend to the lover of medals for many years, and I doubt that the accompanying folder describing the activities of our Society will contain any information that is new to you. It would give me great pleasure to present your name at the next meeting of the Council, and if you will sign the accompanying card I shall be very happy to take the necessary steps.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary.

JNO. WILLIAMS, INC.
— BRONZE FOUNDRY —
(ESTABLISHED 1875)
ARCHITECTURAL BRONZE AND WROUGHT IRON WORK
BRONZE STATUARY CASTING, MEMORIAL TABLETS, ETC.
OFFICE: 556 WEST 27TH STREET.

JOSEPH MITCHELL, PRESIDENT
WM. DONALD MITCHELL, VICE-PRES.
ALEXANDER H. BURGESS, SECRETARY
JOHN H. VALENTINE, TREASURER

TELEPHONE
4610 CHELSEA

SUBJECT:-

NEW YORK, June 28,1920

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th and
156th Streets,
New York City.

Dear Sir;-

I thank you for the invitation in your letter of June twenty-second to become a member of the Numismatic Society.

Our Secretary, Mr. A.H.Burgess is a member of your society and our firm will be, for the present, represented by him.

Perhaps at a later date I may also join but for the present Mr. Burgess will keep us in touch with the activities of the society.

Appreciating your courtesy to me,
I remain,

Very truly yours,
Wm Donald Mitchell
Vice-President.

WDM/J

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